DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 289 652 RC 016 514

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TITLE What Every Citizen Should Know about Washington's Small Schools: Dropout and Graduation Rates.
INSTITUTION Blue Mountain Small Schools Consortium, Waitsburg, WA.
PUB DATE 85
NOTE 6p.
PUB TYPE Reports - Descriptive (141)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Comparative Analysis; *Dropout Rate; Educational Attainment; Elementary Secondary Education; *High School Graduates; *Rural Education; *School Holding Power; *Small Schools
IDENTIFIERS *Blue Mountain Small Schools Consortium WA; *Washington

ABSTRACT

In 1982-83, the State of Washington's 299 public school districts (K-12) educated more than 738,000 students; over 70% of these school districts enrolled fewer than 2,000 students and 40% enrolled fewer than 500 students. The small school (fewer than 500 students) graduation rate of 92.6% was 10.6% higher than the statewide average of 82%. Nine school districts (Dayton, Dixie, Kahlotus, Pomeroy, Prescott, Star, Starbuck, Touchet, and Waitsburg) from the Eastern Washington counties of Columbia, Franklin, Garfield, and Walla Walla, which comprise the Blue Mountain Small Schools Consortium (BMSSC), had a 1983 graduation rate (98%) that was 16% higher than the statewide average. If Washington's graduation rate could have been increased to match that of BMSSC schools, 8,720 more students would have obtained a high school diploma. BMSSC's dropout rate for 1983 was 2.5% or 3.76% less than the statewide 6.26% dropout rate. If the state's dropout rate could have been reduced to the BMSSC rate, 8,746 students would have remained in school. (NEC)

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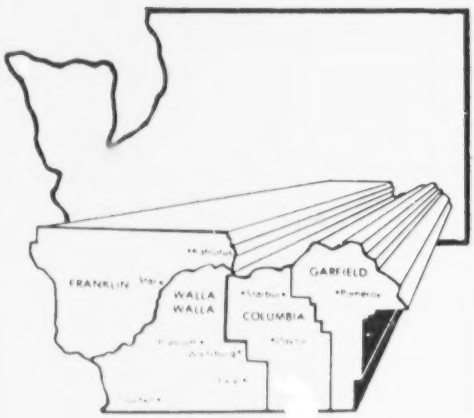
WHAT EVERY CITIZEN SHOULD KNOW ABOUT WASHINGTON'S SMALL SCHOOLS

DROPOUT AND GRADUATION RATES



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WE ARE A NATION AT RISK. Throughout the country, people are raising important questions about the quality of education in their school systems.

WASHINGTON'S 299 K-12 PUBLIC SCHOOLS share in the responsibility of educating over 738,000 students statewide.

MOST PEOPLE THINK BIG when they think about Washington's public schools.

BUT, NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW THAT
70 percent of our state's school districts enroll fewer than 2,000 students.

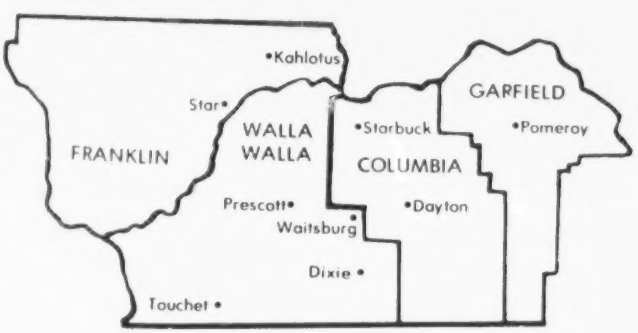
. . . AND THAT
40 percent of our state's school districts enroll fewer than 500 students.

DISTRICTS IN WASHINGTON STATE
LISTED BY STUDENT ENROLLMENT

	Under 500	501-1000	1001-2000	Over 2000	(Totals)
Number of Districts	118	53	45	83	299
Percentage	40%	18%	15%	28%	(100%)

The Blue Mountain Small Schools Consortium (BMSSC) was formed by a group of people who are vitally concerned about providing quality education and presenting the facts about education in small schools.

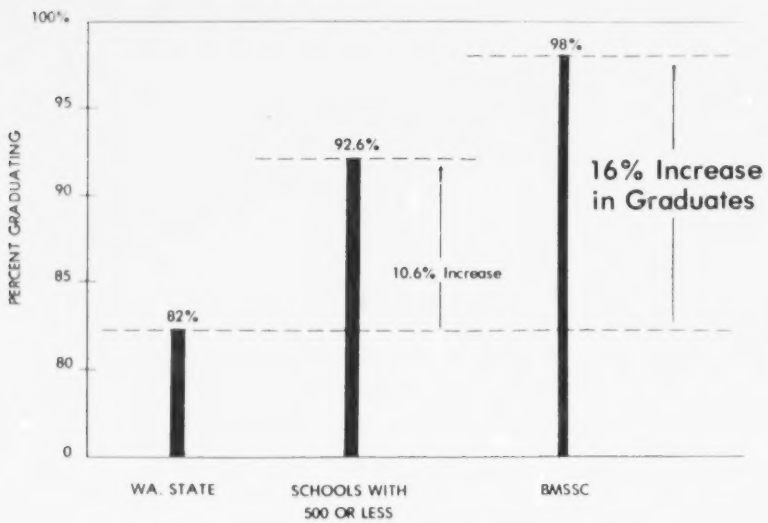
The BMSSC Districts are located in Eastern Washington Counties: Franklin, Garfield, Walla Walla, Columbia.



FACT: Washington's small schools graduation rate in 1983 was 10.6 % higher than the statewide percentage.

FACT: Blue Mountain Small Schools Consortium's graduation rate in 1983 was 16 % higher than the statewide average.

GRADUATION PERCENTAGES: WASHINGTON STATE AND SMALL SCHOOL COMPARISONS



Source: SPI Dropout Rates and Graduation Statistics, 1982-83

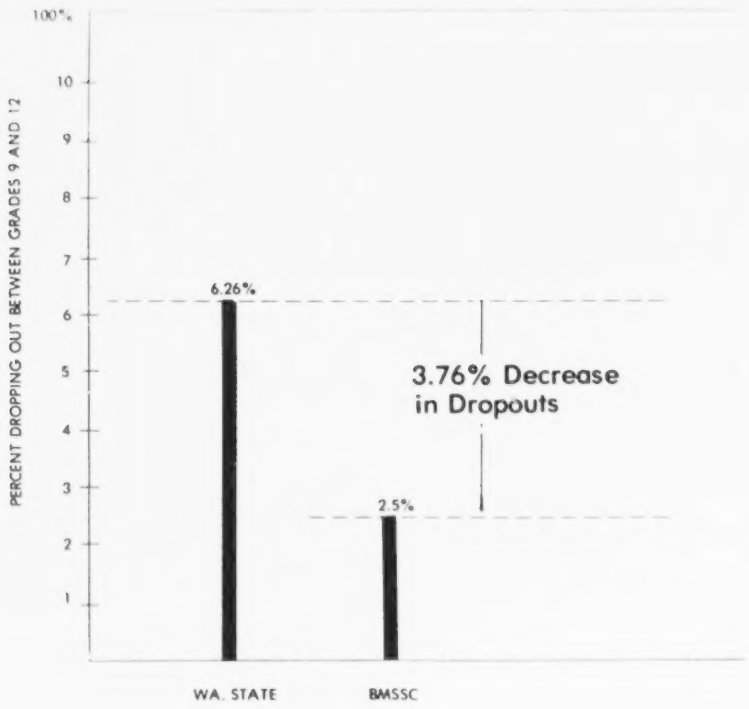
IN OTHER WORDS . . .

If Washington State's graduation rate could have been INCREASED to match that of the Blue Mountain Small Schools Consortium rate,

8,720 MORE STUDENTS WOULD HAVE OBTAINED A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA!

FACT: Blue Mountain Small Schools Consortium's dropout rate last year was 3.76 % less than the statewide percentage.

DROPOUT PERCENTAGES: WASHINGTON STATE AND SMALL SCHOOL COMPARISONS



Source: SPI Dropout Rates and Graduation Statistics, 1982-83

IN OTHER WORDS . . .

If Washington State's dropout rate could have been REDUCED to the Blue Mountain Small Schools Consortium rate,

8,746 students WOULD HAVE BEEN SAVED!

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